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Janet Lathrop

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UNH Family Business Center Offers Advice on Balancing Responsibilities in Family Business

By [Janet Lathrop](#)
UNH News Bureau

March 4, 2002

DURHAM, N.H. -- Having a personal life away from work is one of the hardest juggling acts performed by family business owners, according to the experts. "Finding the Balance in Family Business: Can You Be Responsible to the Business and Available to Your Family?" is the topic of a workshop on the issue offered by the University of New Hampshire's Center for Family Business (CFB) Tuesday, April 2, at Electropac Inc., 252 Willow St. in Manchester.

Registration and a continental breakfast begin at 8 a.m., followed by the program from 8:30 until 11:45. Lunch and a tour of the Electropac Museum are at noon, followed by a discussion of family business issues and planning for next year's programs from 1 to 2:30 p.m. All adult family members, whether active or not in the family business, will benefit from this workshop. "The more family members who take part, the greater will be the impact," says CFB director Barbara Draper. "Deciding to attend demonstrates a willingness to improve the current situation and a desire for change."

Facilitators Cynthia Adams and Richard Narva of Genus Resources Consulting Services will explore the many demands faced by each generation of family business owners, including societal and cultural pressures. In addition to their formal presentation, Adams and Narva will lead group exercises and encourage participants to actively assess their own role, responsibilities and needs as a member of a family-owned business. They will offer tips on good communication skills including active listening, and how to develop vehicles for family discussion such as family assemblies and councils. Genus Resources

Consulting Services is a multidisciplined consulting firm specializing in enterprises controlled by families. Genus professionals have helped more than 200 companies solve family business challenges.

The center's mission is to assist the entrepreneurial family in finding solutions to business challenges and concerns. Staff help families run successful meetings, bring family members into the business, improve communication, sustain profitability, and transfer leadership and ownership. The Center is sponsored by MassMutual Insurance; Berry, Dunn and McNeil and Parker of Manchester; Cleveland, Waters and Bass of Concord, and Genus Resources, Needham, Mass.

Cost for non-members is \$125 per person for this workshop; registration is requested by March 26. For more information contact Draper at (603) 862-1107, or by e-mail at: Barbara.Draper@unh.edu

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